



Dear Citizens,

This week I had the honor of delivering my first State of the City address in the City Council chambers. In the speech I laid out the goals and ideals of my administration. I believe they reflect the values of the people of Baltimore, and will help make our city grow as a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Someone once said, "Dreams are like stars, you may never touch them, but if you follow them, they will lead you to your destiny." I want everyone to walk with me in charting a new destiny for Baltimore. But as we begin to have honest and frank conversations about a cleaner, greener, and healthier Baltimore, we need to first be a smarter Baltimore – a better educated Baltimore.

To move in that direction, I created a new position within the Mayor's Office that will guide our efforts to transform Baltimore's education system. My Assistant Deputy Mayor for Education will be charged with implementing the LEARN section of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan (read the [Master Plan](#)). The new Assistant Deputy Mayor for Education will work with business and community leaders, parents, teachers and students to get to a place where we put our students and their needs before anything else.

In addition to raising well-educated children, I know that feeling safe and secure in your home and in your neighborhood is a major concern for everyone. I have directed the brave and dedicated members of the Police Department to develop a new relationship between our officers and the neighborhoods where they serve. We must focus our resources like a laser beam on those communities plagued by violence. Not only will these areas get targeted patrolling, but we will develop profiles of these communities and begin to address the needs of the people who live there.

A safer Baltimore is our goal and I am committed to that goal.

Along with making Baltimore safer, I pledged to make living in the city more affordable. Unfortunately, too many people have said to me personally that they are making a conscience decision to live and raise their families in Baltimore, but they feel like they are being punished for doing so. To help ease the tax burden for homeowners in Baltimore, I announced the creation of a Blue Ribbon Panel on Real Estate Taxes. Working with the City Council, some of the city's brightest and most committed citizens will be tasked with helping me to establish concrete ways to cut the property taxes in our city.

I know that I have laid out an aggressive agenda for the first 10 months of my administration, but I promised the citizens that I would be about the business of solving problems. Education, crime and taxes are three pieces of this agenda. To read more of the agenda I laid out in the State of the City address, visit my [website](#).

I am pleased to announce that my team has hit the ground running, and that the state of our city is strong – and getting stronger each day. I am also very interested in what you think about my agenda. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions. Together, we can help make Baltimore stronger every day.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

To find more events in your community, visit Baltimore's Department of Recreation and Parks
[February Events Calendar](#).

2007 Metro Wheelchair Basketball League

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Farring-Baybrook Recreation Center
4501 Farring Court
Baltimore, MD 21225
(410) 396-7072

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks' Therapeutic Division offers wheelchair basketball games every Tuesday. The metro league is for players with and without physical disabilities, ages 14 and older. All skill levels are welcome. The league plays by the National Wheelchair Association rules and the games are officiated by certified basketball officials. In its 15th season, the Metro Wheelchair Basketball League is the oldest and most successful wheelchair basketball league of its type. Registration fee is \$10.

Stargazing

Thursday, February 15, 2007

6:30 pm

The Gwynns Falls Trail
4500 Franklinton Road
Baltimore, MD 21207
(410) 396-0404

Experience the mysteries of the galaxy and universe from high above Winans Meadow deep in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Peer through our telescope and see what the night sky offers. Pre-registration required. Please call at least 24 hours in advance. Recommended for ages 7 and older. Please wear sturdy, closed toed shoes or boots. Admission is \$3.

Who's Who in Black History Program

Friday, February 16, 2007

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Leith Walk Recreation Center
1235 Sherwood Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21239
(410) 396-6681

After-school program participants will perform African dances, recite poems, perform a short skit, and present a portrait of important African American figures. The event is FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Trail Sweep

Saturday, February 17, 2007

10:00 am

Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park

Exact location TBA
Baltimore, MD 21223
(410) 396-0440

Trash won't pick up itself! So we'll collect what doesn't belong on the Trail. We'll focus on a particular section each week to clean. Gloves provided. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Great for school community service hours. Pre-registration required; please call at least 24 hours in advance. Please wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes or boots; second-use, outdoor clothing and bring drinking water (date is subject to change).

Saturday Stories at the Top

February 3 – February 24, 2007

Saturdays, 11:00 am

Observation Level
World Trade Center
401 East Pratt Street
27th Floor

This year, Top of the World Observation Level celebrates Black History Month in a unique way, with Saturday Stories at the Top. Each Saturday in February, storytellers teach children of the African and African American culture through creative, imaginative, and exciting tales, at 11a.m. The event is presented by Mayor Sheila Dixon and Top of the World Observation Level.

Admission Fee: \$5 for adults \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children. Advance group rates are available.

Phone : 410-837-8439

For registrations or questions please click [here](#)

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